

Listing of Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior claim listings in this application.

1. (Previously Presented) A rotary head comprising:

at least one pair of magnetic heads having gaps whose azimuth angles are different from each other; and a rotating cylinder comprising boards for having the corresponding magnetic heads fixed thereto, wherein the magnetic heads are arranged so as to have the same height from the corresponding gaps to board surfaces of the corresponding boards and also to be symmetric with respect to a rotating axis of the rotating cylinder,

wherein each of the pair of magnetic heads is formed by an I-type core and a C-type core with a winding slot, which abut against each other having the corresponding gap interposed therebetween, and the gap lies closer to one side with respect to a width direction of the corresponding I-type and C-type cores, and

wherein, in a rotating direction of the rotating cylinder, the C-type core of one of the magnetic heads moves ahead of the I-type core of the same and the I-type core of the other magnetic head moves ahead of the C-type core of the same.

2 (Original) The rotary head according to Claim 1, wherein each of the magnetic heads has one and another track grooves, having the corresponding gap interposed therebetween and having different depths from each other, for regulating a track width of the gap.

3. (Previously Presented) The rotary head according to Claim 1, wherein, of the pair of magnetic heads, the one magnetic head has an azimuth angle equal to or greater than +10 degrees with respect to a normal of the board surface of the corresponding board and the other magnetic head has an azimuth angle equal to or less than -10 degrees with respect to a normal of the board surface of the corresponding board.

4. (Original) A tape-medium recording and playback apparatus comprising a tape-loading path formed by a tape medium which is led out from a tape reel and is wound around the rotary head according to Claim 1.

5. (Original) The tape-medium recording and playback apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the tape-loading path comprises the rotary head to be driven to rotate;

two guide posts respectively disposed upstream and downstream of the rotary head, for guiding the tape medium led out from the tape reel in order to wind the tape medium around the rotary head; and

a capstan disposed downstream of the rotary head, for causing the tape medium to run.